

I Claim

1. A system for secure transmission of data from a facility to a centralized host server for remote viewing from a personal computer, said system comprising:

a camera device;

an uploader device configured to acquire information from said camera device, said uploader device configured to automatically transmit information over a network,

said host server configured to communicate with a plurality of said uploader devices through said network; and,

said personal computer configured to communicate with said host server.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said camera device is a digital camera.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein said network is at least one of a public, packet-switched Internet and an Ethernet.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said information includes text and images of a patient.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein said images of patient include at least one of radiological images, x-rays, MR images, CT images, direct pictures of patient pathology, lab data, EKG data, documents and images capable of being photographed by a camera

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said host server requests a user identification and password from said personal computer; said user identification and password being identical when accessing any of said information.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said host server is configured to automatically transmit to said facility a list of new passwords upon a request by said uploader device.
8. The system of claim 7 wherein said password is at least one of a temporary password and temporary-permanent password.
9. The system of claim 1 wherein said facility is at least one of a hospital, clinic, emergency room, film room, x-ray facility, medical office and sports facility.
10. The system of claim 1 wherein said host server is configured to construct and transmit to said personal computer a web page containing a list of available medical facilities and a list of patient images from each of said medical facilities
11. The system of claim 1 wherein said uploader device is removably connected to said camera device.
12. A method for securely transmitting data acquired by a camera device to a centralized host server for remote viewing from a personal computer, said method comprising:
 - acquiring and digitizing images using said camera device;
 - transmitting images to an uploader device;
 - transmitting said images to said host server via a network;
 - assembling a web page, including said Images, at said host server in response to a request from said personal computer; and,
 - transmitting said web page to said personal computer
13. The method of claim 12 wherein said step of transmitting images to said host server includes:

entering text including at least one of patient name and patient history into said uploader device;

requesting a transfer of images;

counting said images;

compressing said images if image file is greater than a predetermined threshold;

generating thumbnail image representations of said images;

populating a data file including said images, thumbnail image representations and associated text entries at said uploader device;

establishing a network connection;

transmitting data file to said host server; and,

terminating said network connection.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said steps, of assembling a web page and transmitting said web page to said personal computer include:

establishing a network connection at said personal computer;

entering host server network address at said personal computer;

transmitting list of medical facilities from said host server to said personal computer;

selecting a medical facility at said personal computer;

validating user identification and password entered at said personal computer;

accessing, at said host server, patient folders associated with said selected medical facility;

populating, at said host server, an HTML web page with said patient folders;

transmitting said HTML web page from said host server to said personal computer;

selecting, at said personal computer, one of said patient folders in said HTML web page;; and,

transmitting said selected one of said patient folders to said personal computer, wherein said patient folder includes said images.

15. The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of:

a) requesting, at said uploader device, temporary-permanent passwords for a particular medical facility for users of said personal computers;

b) distributing said temporary-permanent passwords to said users;

c) requesting, at said personal computer, entry of said temporary-permanent password;

d) requesting entry, at said personal computer, of a new password;

f) replacing said temporary-permanent password with said new password;

g) repeating steps (a) - (f) for a different medical facility such that said new password is identical for each of said medical facility.